



MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTESTS

ART CONTEST

"My Choice, My Voice, My Vote"

We encourage students in Promote the Vote to express their patriotism and creativity by designing artwork depicting civic responsibility and voter participation. Many times the works of these young artists make the most lasting impressions.

The theme gives rise to this year's Art Contest: "My Choice, My Voice, My Vote." Art entries should illustrate the idea that Americans have equal opportunity to share their views, (and through our initiative process possibly affect legislation), and by casting their vote, having their voice heard.

All entries become the property of the Secretary of State's Office.

Awards will be granted in each of the two subject areas. First, second, and third place winners will be announced for each category. Top winners will receive savings bonds awards along with certificates of recognition.

Participants must use white, unlined cardstock or poster board. Entries must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster or illustration board.

The *Promote the Vote* Art Contests are open to Mississippi PTV students in Grades 9-12.

ART CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS

Artists' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Submissions that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Submissions will be assigned an identification number upon receipt.
- Submissions will be judged for content, originality, and artistic merit.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- First, second, and third place winners will be selected from each of the four categories.
- Winners will be announced and honored by the Secretary of State in early 2011. An Awards Day will be held at the State Capitol soon after the announcement, at which winners will receive savings bonds awards along with certificates of recognition.

STATE ART CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, December 2, 2011.
2. Entries must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office, Promote the Vote Art Contest, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve.
4. Entries must be original artwork by the student.
5. Artwork must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster board.
6. The contestant's name must NOT appear on the front of the artwork.
7. Only one entry is allowed per contestant.

8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2011 and participated in the Mock Election, submitting election results to the Secretary of State's office.
9. Each piece of artwork must be accompanied by the art entry cover sheet.. The social security number is required.
10. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.
11. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted artwork. Please take photos or make copies for the student's own records.

“VOTE TODAY!” Campaign Yard Signs

- The first Grade 6-8 Art Contest challenges students to design campaign yard signs which encourage and remind adults to go to the polls to vote on Tuesday, November 8 for the General Election in Mississippi. Posters must NOT promote any individual candidate or political party but instead re-enforce the message of **“Vote Today!”** We encourage teachers to talk with students about the readability and messages in the campaign posters and to draw inspiration for graphics and lettering by looking at individual candidates' campaign yard signs and posters.

Political Cartoon “Voter ID” “My Choice, My Voice, My Vote”

The second 6-8 Art Contest challenges students to investigate issues, determine their position and then product a political cartoon illustrating their point of view.

There are two options for students to consider. Students may only submit cartoons for one of the themes.

1. Students may draw a cartoon illustrating the 2011 PTV theme of **“My Choice, My Voice, My Vote.”** Students' cartoons should illustrate the idea that as citizens of a democracy we individually have the responsibility and opportunity to choose our leaders and express our opinions on critical issues by casting our ballot -- and that each vote counts toward determining the direction of our government.
 2. Students may choose to investigate both the pros and the cons of the proposed **Voter Identification** Constitution Initiative, determine their own position and then produce a political cartoon illustrating their point of view. Teachers are encouraged to prepare students by examining several different political cartoons on varying subjects as well as utilizing the downloadable videos available on the PTV website featuring two of Mississippi's own award-winning political cartoonists discussing the ways they create their own political cartoons.
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ART CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS

Artists' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Submissions that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Submissions will be assigned an identification number upon receipt.
- Submissions will be judged for content, originality, and artistic merit.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- First, second, and third place winners will be selected from each of the two elementary-aged categories.

ART CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office by Friday, Dec. 2, 2011.
2. Entries must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office, *Promote the Vote* Art Contest, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in Grades 6-8.
4. Entries must be original artwork by the student.
5. Artwork must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster board.
6. The contestant's name must NOT appear on the front of the artwork.
7. Only one entry per contest is allowed per contestant. Students may enter both art contests.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2011 and participated in the Mock Election, submitting election results to the Secretary of State's office.
9. Each piece of artwork must be accompanied by the art entry cover sheet. The student's social security number is required.
10. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted artwork. Please take photos or make copies for the student's own records.

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

This activity allows Mississippi students a chance to express their views on important issues and provides a forum to have their opinions heard.

Students are asked to address the 2011 theme, "***My Choice, My Voice, My Vote***" Students should fully develop ideas about how every American and every Mississippi is guaranteed the right to express their opinion on issues as well as choose their government's leaders by casting a ballot and getting involved in the political process. They should examine how their own individual actions and the individual actions of others influence local, state and national government and politics.

The state essay competition consists of two grade-level categories:

- Grades 6-8

Honors will be extended to first, second, and third place. Statewide winners will receive savings bonds.

All Essay Contest submissions become the property of the Secretary of State's Office upon arrival. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted essays. Please keep a copy for the student's own records

ESSAY CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS

Student essay writers' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Essays that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Essays will be assigned an identification number upon receipt and no names will be associated with entries until after judging is complete.
- Essays will be judged for content, style, and form.

- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- Identities of the judges will be kept secret.
- First, second and third place winners will be selected.

ESSAY CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office in Jackson no later than Friday, December 2, 2011..
2. Entries must be sent to the *Promote the Vote* Essay Contest, Secretary of State's Office, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Essays must be typed, single-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 (letter size) paper.
4. All pages must be numbered in the upper right hand corner.
5. Essays are limited to two pages.
6. Contestants must be in Grades 6-8.
7. The essay must be the work of the contestant.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2011 and participated in the Mock Election, submitting election results to the Secretary of State's office.
9. Direct quotations from sources must be properly attributed.
10. Only one essay may be submitted by each contestant.
11. Each essay must be accompanied by the essay entry cover sheet provided on the PTV website. The social security number is required.
12. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.